

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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Session: 2026-2027 - Notes

Class -X Subject - English. Topic: Poem: Not Marble nor the Gilded Monuments

Answer the following questions :

Q1. Describe how the monuments and statues brave the ravages of time.

Ans. Time is all powerful. All durable, solid, precious marbles and gilded memorials that mark the graves of the princes are ravaged with the passage of time. These stone monuments are left uncared and neglected to such an extent that the cruel time tarnishes and destroys them completely. Whatever little is spared and left is destroyed completely by the wasteful wars and broils.

Q2. How does the poet declare his rhyme to be powerful?

Ans. The poet tells how time will not destroy his powerful rhyme (the poem), though it shall destroy the world's most magnificent structures. He makes comparisons between the poetry and various monuments to show how poetry is stronger than these structures. Neither the precious marble nor the gold-plated monuments meant to be the graves of princes can match the powerful effect of the poem that the poet has written in praise of his young friend. Sluttish time destroys everything. Even the great monuments once carefully preserved are tarnished and left uncared with the passage of time. But the time will have no sway over the poem that glorifies his young friend in its lines.

Q3. 'Gainst death and all oblivious enmity, shall you pace forth'. On the basis of these lines comment how the poet honours his friend.

Ans. The poet states that he has established a living record of his friend in the form of a sonnet that will outlive all the ravages of time. This recorded memory of his friend shall be honoured and remembered until posterity. The poet emphasizes that like a powerful man, his friend shall stride forward against all destructive forces like death and enemies and will be praised even by the future generations to come. His memory will outwear this world and survive until the doomsday (the last day of humanity).

Q4. What judgment does the poet talk about in the ending couplet of this poem?

Ans. In the ending couplet, the poet refers to the doomsday, the Apocalypse, i.e., the last day of humanity when God will talk about 'judgement'. He makes this reference to judgment because he wants to declare the immortality of his friend in his verse. He wants to ensure it to the readers that until there is humanity alive, people will read this verse and henceforth his friend will be immortalized.

Q5. Comment on the theme of the poem 'Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments.'

Ans. Shakespeare's sonnet 55 deals with the idea that his friend, his love will be made immortal violent forces. Shakespeare considers poetry as superior, and the only assurance of in these verses, though everything else will be lost through war, "sluttish" time, or other immortality in this world, but lowers this particular sonnet itself as being unworthy of his friend. Thus, his theme is that everything will be destroyed and forgotten except the friend, who will be praised forever, because he has been immortalized in these lines



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This, he proves by comparing his verse with marbled, gilded monuments of the princes. He is glad to declare that these great monuments too have been ravaged by time and are in a state of utter neglect. But neither time nor any other mode of destruction can reduce the effect of his 'powerful rhyme's in which his friend will continue to shine through ages.

The poet goes on to say that wars and broils too have done great damage to the great statues and the great buildings of architecture. As a result, these once popular buildings and statues will be destroyed. But neither Mars, his sword nor any devastating fire resulting from the wars can burn the verses in which the poet has immortalized his friend.

His love for his friend is imminent when he ensures that death or any sort of enmity would not rue his friend as he 'shall pace forth' to be remembered till posterity until the day of Last Judgment. Thus, the poet immortalizes his friend forever in his verses.

